

We claim:

1. A wireless telephone system, comprising

a base station having a first connection to a circuit switched telephone network and a second connection to a packet network,

a mobile device for communicating speech to the base station using a wireless protocol, and

apparatus at the base station for selecting either the first connection or the second connection to service a call from the handset based on a predefined selection algorithm.

2. The wireless telephone system of claim 1 wherein the selecting apparatus further comprises a switch, and the base station apparatus further comprises a packet interface and protocol stack between a first port of the switch and the second connector and a telephone interface between a second port of the switch and the first connector.

3. The wireless telephone system of claim 2 further comprising a central processing unit under the control of programmed instructions for controlling the switch to select either the packet interface or the telephone interface to service a call based on the predefined selection algorithm.

4. The wireless telephone system of claim 3 wherein the packet interface comprises means for converting signals from the mobile device into digital packets compatible with the protocol stack connected to the second connection.

5. The wireless telephone system of claim 3 wherein the packet interface comprises means for converting packets received from the protocol stack into signals for transmission to the mobile device.

6. The wireless telephone system of claim 3 wherein the telephone interface comprises means for converting signals from the mobile device into analog signals for transmission to the first connector.

7. The wireless telephone system of claim 3 wherein the telephone interface comprises means for converting analog signals from the first connector into signals for transmission to the mobile device.

8. The wireless telephone system of any of claims 2 through 8 wherein the protocol stack is a TCP/IP stack.